

Response under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure Examining Group
Box: AF

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of amended claim 2 in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

2. (Twice Amended) A method of operating an atmospheric pressure plasma source comprising the steps of:

coupling an r.f. power supply through a coaxial transmission line to a suitably designed tuning network;

coupling said network to a small plasma chamber having suitable electrodes located within;

coupling a gas manifold that provides a suitable mixture of oxygen and a noble gas to said small plasma chamber; and,

utilizing the portion of the plasma that spills out of the small chamber for localized sterilization purposes[, including cavities, small access holes, and other hard-to-reach places].